

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 00846 171642Z

44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 BIB-01 /088 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7325

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 00846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: INITIAL FRG REACTION TO U.S. POSITION ON
EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) STATE 11498, (B) USNATO 191

1. EMBOFF MET ON JANUARY 17 WITH FONOFF MBFR OFFICE
DIRECTOR RUTH TO PRESENT TO HIM DIRECTLY THE U.S.
POSITION ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. A COPY OF THE
POINTS SET FORTH IN REFTEL A WAS LEFT WITH HIM. RUTH'S
INITIAL REACTION TO THE U.S. POSITION WAS TO INDICATE
THAT THE LOGIC OF THE U.S. ARGUMENT WAS CLEAR AND THE
POINTS OF CRITICISM OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WERE WELL
TAKEN. HE STRESSED THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE WITH THE
U.S. ON SUBSTANCE, AND THAT THE QUESTION WAS REALLY ONE
OF TACTICS.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 00846 171642Z

2. AS RUTH SEES IT, THE SUGGESTED GUIDANCE TO THE AD

HOC GROUP (PARA 3, REFTTEL A) IS NOT NECESSARILY IN CONFLICT WITH THE BRITISH PROPOSAL MADE AT THE JANUARY 16 SPC MEETING (REFTTEL B). RUTH BELIEVES THE BRITISH PROPOSAL REPRESENTS AN INTERESTING IDEA WHICH IS UNDER FURTHER STUDY IN BONN. IN RUTH'S JUDGMENT, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE FRG, UK AND US POSITIONS ARE RELATIVELY SLIGHT, AND HE IS HOPEFUL THE DRAFT GUIDANCE SUGGESTED BY THE U.S. CAN BE AMPLIFIED A BIT IN BRUSSELS. RUTH DOES NOT ANTICIPATE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A COMPROMISE FORMULA - NOT NECESSARILY IN THE FORM OF A FORMAL COUNTER-PROPOSAL - WHICH THE ALLIES COULD USE TO LINK THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WITH THE WESTERN EMPHASIS ON A REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE STEADFAST GERMAN REACTION TO THE PLAYING OF THE FREEZE ISSUE SINCE THE EAST FIRST ADVANCED IT, IT APPEARS TO US IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THE FRG TO AGREE TO REJECT DEFINITELY THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. THIS APPEARS TO BE ESPECIALLY TRUE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH AND OTHER ALLIES HAVE ALREADY INDICATED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A WESTERN RESPONSE OTHER THAN OUTRIGHT REJECTION. INSTEAD, THE GERMANS SEEM TO BE PREPARED TO MAKE A SINCERE EFFORT TO FIND A COMPROMISE FORMULA IN BRUSSELS SATISFACTORY TO ALL ALLIES. END COMMENT.
CASH

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